# AMERICAN TROOPS EAGER FOR ACTION

Correspondent Describes His Experiences With Heavy Artillery Regiment.

EFFICIENCY IS EVIDENT

Nothing Overlooked in Equipment of Every Enlisted Man in Army.

By RAYMOND G. CARROLL.

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AMERICAN HEADQUARTERS IN FRANCE,
Dec 1.—For ten days, save for an interruption of eighteen hours, the writer was
privileged to be in the forward positions on the west front with American
recons under fire of German batteries.

That he was a War College man, that
he had twice visited the west front as
recons under fire of German batteries. troops under fire of German batteries. As the guest of the first contingent of beavy field artillery which into action in the great Euro-war, I saw the continuation of training with new French made guns and recently purchased green borses in a movement planned and suc-cessfully carried out as a nucleus for instruction of later contingents arfrom overseas.

the same time other American units light field artillery and infantry. association with veteran three points to one American, were in the dentiral sector with the heavy field artillery for the isomeric purpose. The whole programme. I might say, antestate the passing of our men into winter quarters for those final adjustments. Equipment for the field of France, and from uniform, campaign hat, over-

It is what I saw of the start to the front, a ride on a military train and afterward as I rode to the front with our men, sometimes on a caisson, often on the tail of a supply wagon and now and then on the off horse in one of the batteries; also an account of the overnight life in dugouts, trenches and billets occupied by our soldiers close against the enemy lines. We will un d events chronologically,

### Gentle Caution Expressed.

"If anything happens that helps our such was the gentle caution ex-pressed to me by the General in comnand of the artillery brigade. He was asking for a square deal. All the army wants is a fighting chance. He feared the magnifying of trivial incidents into care headlines. The army is not hard to get along with once you understand that it has but a single purpose—a gift of victory to the country. Only a few days before the General

had come to the training and from di-vision headquarters with orders to put the outfit into action, half of the three artillery regiments at a time. A brigade of artillery consists of one regiment of heavy fleid artillery and two regiments of light field artillery. The orders meant that a battallon of each regiment, nine batteries of four guns each, was to go into action for two weeks instruction and then proceed to winter quarters, they units to be followed at the front . c other three battalions of the same

might say that the designation centimeter guns, while the term "lights"

mediate active service in France."

### Where the Value Lay.

The one who came to the regiment of heavy field artillery had some years before been a battery commander with the rank of Captain in our very regiment. Hut the value to the spirit of the men in the assignment was the knowledge of the old sergeants and corporals that the

an artillery observer since the war started, that the first thing he did upon rejoining the regiment was to make a long flight in one of the observation planes—none of these things counted with the men. Over in the barracks they had it all reduced to six words, "The old man has come back." Soldiers

are that way.
"Hetter get your equipment," said
the Colonel to me. "The lights hit the
road first. It is going to be a six hour hike, an cleven hour train ride and then two five hour hikes before we get to our positions. Our regiment is the last in the brigade to get under way.

ter quarters for those final adjustments
of a military character necessary before
the taking over in the spring of a porties of the west front by American soldiers acting by themselves under American generalship.

Mine is a narrative of the close up,
the front, I went with my good friend.
It is what I saw of the start to the sergeant and drew the following: Haven sack, canteen with cover, cup, knife fork, spoon, meat can, steel belinet, folding cot, two blankets and half of a shelter tent, in which to roll it together along with extra underwear and wooller socks. It all made a bulky blanket roll and I was just able to lift it.

### Gave Up \$50,000 Practice.

"No matter what happens to you hever get scharated from your blanket roll." It was the friendly voice of an old Major, a surgeon who had served under Gen, Lloyd Wheaton in the Phil-ippines and Medal of Honor man. He stool in the doorway of my room at the barracks with six cans of condensed soup and a packet of hard bread. This Major had given up a \$50,000 surgical practice on the Pacific coast to put his medical skill behind the American army in France. I reopened the blanket army in France. I reopened the roll and put inside the foodstuffs he

roll and put inside the foodstuffs he brought.

"Have you a metal identification the?" asked the Lieutenant-Colonel.

"No." was the reply.
Inside of an hour I had received a circular disk of aluminum. It was stendiled with my name, occupation and the name of my employer. This was put on a string, and it sail hangs around my neck. I now firmly believe that every

refinents for the same period in the firing zone. I surmise that other arti-lery units will follow in from the other buildings I informed him that I was training camps for American soldiers in going to the front with the boys in B

"heavies" indicates regiments that use asked. "I do not find your name on the the large field pieces such as the 155 lists of those which have been issued." "Don't need them," was the answer,

had to go with my regiment whither it went, and incidentally my credentials were altogether regular in the full army sense.

The General concluded: "You may not have a chance to write anything will have a chance to write anything while we are moving, but if you will play the same you are welcome to come along." He meant just this—that there are bound to be considerations and contingencies arising in modern war greater than the pulling off of a mere newspaper meant being trusted by the army. At least I we considered it.

At the same time with the new Brigament being trusted by the army. At least I we considered it.

At the same time with the new Brigament being trusted by the army. At least I we considered it.

At the same time with the new Brigament who new Colonels for two of the artillery regiments to take the field. Both were men direct from Washington, meant be who had asked for assignments to regiments so take the field. Both were men direct from Washington, ment so regiments so take the field. Both were men direct from Washington, ment is to regiments so take the field. Both were men direct from Washington, ment is to regiments so take the field. Both were men direct from Washington, ment is to regiments so take the field. Both were men direct from Washington, ment is to regiments so take the field. Both were men direct from Washington, ment is to regiments so take the field. Both were ment direct from Washington, ment is to regiments so take the field. Both were ment direct from Washington, ment is to regiments so take the field. Both were ment direct from Washington, ment is to regiments so take the field. Both were men direct from Washington, ment is to regiments so take the field. Both were men direct from Washington, ment is to regiments so take the field. Both were ment direct from Washington, ment is to regiments so take the field. Both were ment direct from Washington, ment is to regiments so take the field. Both were ment direct from Washington, ment is to regiments so take the field. Both were m in the use of the gas masks. He told me that before the war he had been a chemist in London.

Instructed on Masks. It did not take long to get the hang of the masks. I was told that I must always keep the masks hanging on my strap holding the brown mask around my shoulders so that its carrier was directly over my cheet and near my face. Then when the signal "gas alerte" came I was in a position to dive my left hand into the case, seize the elbow of the mask itself, all the time holding my breath, pull it out and slap it over my head. There was a rubber clasp inside the mask to clamp on the nose, also a rubber nipple, connecting by tube with the pure air deposited in a small tank to take between the teeth.

"Now you are equipped to live at least twenty-four hours in the most deadly of the enemy gas fumes," said the chief medical officer.

"Why the second gas mask of French make?" I asked. "For emergency," was the reply. "It holds a man's lungs out for four hours longer. The general staff of the Amer-loan expeditionary forces takes no

chances. Accordingly each of our boys is supplied with both kinds of masks." What does all this preparation of a mere correspondent show? It demon-strates that in the army nothing is overlooked, nothing forgotten. What has been done for me in the way of safe-guards has been done for every enlisted man in the American army. The attention that I received was no more or no soldiers.

To-day it is raining hard, and the

roads between "Vertcolline" and the military key where the batteries entrain for the front are filled with water pools and mudholes. At 6 A. M. the first of the "lighta" had gathered near the stables behind the barrack buildings and swung over the hills for the first six hour hike in the direction of the place designated for boarding the military trains. Other batteries followed at stated intervals This will get us away from the training camp at 2 o'clock to-morrow afternoon.

### American Ingenuity Shown.

I went again to Battery B quarters I went again to Battery B quarters and found the men in great spirits. Everything was packed and ready for the forward movement. A supply wagon outfit, one brought from the Mexican border, had been found shy of harness. The saddlery expert of the battery, an enlisted man, brought out and proudly exhibited two sets of excellent harness he had just finished making. The large he had just finished making. The large park wagon, which after its purchase France had been found to have a sp pole, was reequipped with a home made one. Some of the boys had gone out. cut down a young tree, trimmed off i branches and set it in the wagon. worked. American ingenuity seems

neck. I now firmly believe that every civilian should wear one. Had Big Tim Suilivan had one his body would never have laid for days in a New York morgue-undentified.

Fassing the regimental surgeon on the Fassing the regimental surgeon on the parade ground between the barrack tion, yet I use his boastful expression in order to chronicle his spirit.

order to chronicle his spirit.

Motor cars containing officers of rank
were speeding around the camp, and
racing back and forth along the road to the military key. Ferhaps the busiest man of all was our quartermaster Cap-tain, who had concluded all the detailed the "I am only a civilian."

The hell you don't!" was the sharp ties for the military trains. He stopped

tain, a man up from the ranks, of whom a high army official had said to me: We have tried in vain for seven weeks

was perfect order and system. German efficiency is going to be matched, an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth. Every man knew his place and exactly what he had to do. There was not a nerve losse in the regiment. Perfect disciplant of the regiment. Perfect disciplant of the many wars simply submitted.

He was Always Smiling.

pery road or how mean a green horse can show itself on occasion must forgive even excessive profanity. But he who can show itself on occasion must forgive even excessive profanity. But he who can show itself on occasion must forgive even excessive profanity. But he who can show itself on occasion must forgive even excessive profanity. But he who can show itself on occasion must forgive even excessive profanity. But he who can show itself on occasion must forgive even excessive profanity. But he who can show itself on occasion must forgive even excessive profanity. But he who

ter of hoofs on the paved areas around the barracks sounded, mingled with the cries of the drivers and the rumble of

calls. I hurried to quarters in bare time to put my bundle spon the top of a tall pile in the wagon, which was afterward covered with tarpaulin to keep the rolls dry from rain. B Battery was fully prepared twenty-four hours ahead of its schedule.

Underneath all the bustle and excitement of the camp I noticed that there was perfect order and system. German

7,000 pound howitzer can be on a silp- day to authorize the Treasury to buy mittee.

Just then an orderly from regimental the barracks sounded, mingled with the headquarters came over to brigade headquarters to say that if I was going along to ling caiseons and cannon. I slept plans to resume within a few weeks the very little. In fact, I passed a good portion of the night commiserating with the National Army who is training with t

winning of the fight. A speaking campaign has been planned to cover the FREE BAND CONCERT TO NIGHT pline! The men were simply splendid.
Only the guns and the horses got a cussing out.

Any one who has seen how contrary a result of the speaking division of the speaking d

The newly organized educational even excessive profability. But he who swears most at a horse strikes the animal least, is a saying in the army.

Throughout the entire night the claster of hoofs on the paved areas around the barracks sounded, mingled with the

SPEAKERS WILL EXPLAIN WAR Defence, the Rotary Club, the Sons of the Revolution, the Daughters of the Revolution, the Y. M. C. A. and many

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